

Nadim Fuleihan, a gypsum stack expert, spoke at a UC meeting to discuss what exactly we are dealing with. Nadim noted that one of the stacks is flooded and the other is very close to being flooded. He said that if the pressure stays the same on the stack as it is now, seepage would occur more frequently and we were looking at a potential failure. One objective of the meeting was to find out what amount of rain could we sustain before there was the possibility of a catastrophic release. Nadim stressed that we were at, if not past, that level and that any amount of rain could potentially cause such a release. His estimate is that 35 million gallons of water need to be disposed of. He urged the group to find and act on a solution ASAP and said the situation was critical. He will give OSC Ruhl and USCG Captain Deihl a briefing at 0900 tomorrow.

Several options were being considered as a solution. One option is that the phosphoric acid solution can be turned into a low grade fertilizer. This opens up far more storage options that we currently have. This is not going to solve the immediate problem of getting rid of the water; however, it is an option that could help once the immediate threat is mitigated.

Another option being considered is pre-treatment of the solution in order to raise the pH and drop the fluoride levels. This may enable Gulf Stream to take the water. By the same token, the Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority could potentially take the water if it was pre-treated. They could take up to 1 million gallons per day.

START-3 is continuing to monitor the pH levels of the water. There is an area in the retaining wall, downstream of the initial breach area, which has what appears to be gypsum seeping out of the wall. There is dead vegetation all along the area and the pH of the water that is collecting in the area is 2. START-3 has brought this area to the attention of USCG Commander Kammer and IC Kelly Wilson. Agrifos engineers went and observed the area and it is being carefully monitored. START-3 will also continue to monitor this area.